

Program Purpose

Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program

The Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment program encourages outstanding students and paraprofessionals to become teachers, and assists current teachers in obtaining additional endorsements in shortage subjects.

The program emphasizes teaching in subject shortage areas such as math, science, and special education. About 75 percent of program participants plan to teach in high-demand subject areas in Washington public schools.

In return for conditional scholarships or loan repayments, participants agree to teach in Washington K-12 public schools (usually two years of teaching for each year of funding).

Program Purpose

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) was created to expand educational opportunities for citizens in the western states and to provide additional educational programs, research and policy analysis to member states.

Students participating the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program receive conditional loans to study optometry or osteopathy – two professional degree programs not offered in Washington. In return, participants agree to practice in rural and high-need areas of the state.

Effect of proposed cuts

Future Teachers Conditional Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program

Funding for Future Teachers was suspended in FY 11. This proposal would continue the suspension of new applicant funding. Existing contracts will be honored.

The suspension results in:

- Loss of approximately 200 new awards.
- Loss of awards to post-baccalaureate and graduate education students. 80 percent of participants are in this group. This is one of the few state aid programs to serve this student population.
- Loss of awards to recipients pursuing shortage subject areas such as math, science, special education and career and technical education.
- Loss of the only targeted financial aid program for the traditional school of education student.

Effect of proposed cuts

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Student access to optometry and osteopathic medical programs would be hindered and students would be forced to borrow additional dollars to complete their professional degrees.

The suspension results in:

- Loss of six new awards to students.
- Potential loss of optometrists and osteopathic physicians practicing in rural and high-need areas of the state.